



S U P E R F U N D U P D A T E

A R K A N S A S C O M P A N Y
1 8 5 F O U N D R Y S T R E E T
N E W A R K , N E W J E R S E Y



S E P T E M B E R 1 7 , 1 9 8 7

433706



I. SITE SETTING

The Arkansas Company occupies about two acres of a very old and somewhat dilapidated industrial park at 185 Foundry Street, Newark, New Jersey. The industrial park is situated in the triangular area formed by the convergence of the New Jersey Turnpike and the Pulaski Skyway, or Route 1/9 (Figure 1). The Turnpike is less than 100 yards to the east of the site, and Route 1/9 is about 300 yards to the west. The Ironbound Section, a densely populated residential area of Newark, is located less than a quarter mile to the west. More than 25,000 people live within one mile of the site.

The Arkansas facility occupies nine buildings in all, and two storage sheds (Figure 2). Appendix A lists the contents and condition of these buildings.

II. SITE BACKGROUND

The Arkansas Company manufactured hundreds of textile chemicals at this location from 1943 to 1983. Arkansas' product line included, but was not limited to: chelating agents, dye carriers, emulsifying agents, fire retardants, fungicides, resin finishes and water repellents.

In September of 1983, the City of Newark foreclosed its tax lien on the Arkansas Company. At the time, the company owed the City approximately \$110,000 in taxes and \$7,000 in water bills. On October 23, 1983, the tenant of the site (Arkansas Company) and the owner of the site (Galaxy, Inc.) both filed for relief under the Federal Bankruptcy Code. On January 20, 1987, EPA commenced initial site security as a CERCLA removal action. At this time more extensive CERCLA removal actions are being initiated.

III. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

To date, the only identified PRPs are the site owners and operators, including Arkansas Company, Galaxy Inc., and certain officers of these two companies. On May 27, 1987, Region II issued notice letters to all identified PRPs, offering the opportunity to undertake site cleanup activities. On August 20, 1987, the attorney representing PRPs informed EPA their client would not undertake cleanup activities at the Arkansas site due to financial hardship.

IV. OBJECTIVE OF CLEANUP

The objective of the CERCLA response is to remove the threat of fire and explosion and the threat of direct contact with

hazardous substances abandoned at this site. This objective is best accomplished by sorting, segregating and disposing of the chemicals abandoned on-site. Sampling and analysis for compatibility and disposal will be performed as required.

Site security will be maintained throughout the cleanup. Although extensive decontamination of certain buildings will be required, it is not the objective of this project to entirely decontaminate and decommission this facility.

The major tasks required to achieve the objective of this project are divided into three major categories: 1) site rehabilitation and preparation for removal operations; 2) waste handling and disposal; and 3) partial decontamination and decommission of the facility. The total estimated cost of this project is \$1,968,000.

The estimated time to complete the proposed project is expected to exceed the 12-month statutory limit for removal actions.

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APPENDIX A

QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF SUBSTANCES PRESENT

This section provides a brief description of each building and the quantities and types of substances found in and around each building. Figure 2 provides a view of the facility layout.

Building 25 -- Offices of Chemical Storage

Building 25 is a two-story, brick structure with a basement. The first and second floors were offices, and the basement served as a storage area for laboratory reagents and sample formulations. The basement is now flooded with more than a foot of water (approx. 20,000 gallons). Approximately 2,500 small jars of samples and laboratory reagents are stored on shelves in the basement. Some shelves have fallen or have been overturned. Many jars, jugs and other small containers of chemicals are floating on the water. The standing water has prevented any inventorying of the materials in the basement.

Building 30 -- Laboratory

Building 30 served as the research and development and quality control laboratory. It consists of two sections: a one-story, brick building, which was the main laboratory; and two-story, cinder block addition, which housed several offices on the ground floor and a small laboratory on the second floor. Although Buildings 25 and 30 have separate designations, they are part of the same structure. Building 30 appears to have been built at a later date, which may account for its separate designation.

Approximately 5,000 small containers of chemical reagents and sample product formulations are present in this building. The containers range in volume from several ounces to several gallons. Many contain CERCLA-designated hazardous substances including, but not limited to: benzene, acetone, mercury, cyanide compounds, sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide.

Building 28 -- Main Process Building

Building 28 is a four-story, brick building, in which most of Arkansas' manufacturing operation took place. Approximately 1,200 drums, about half of which are empty, are abandoned in this building. Many drums are corroded through or bulging. Several hundred small (5-gallon or less) containers of chemicals are present in two laboratories and a storage area

in the building. Hazardous substances in drums and small containers include, but are not limited to: benzyl chloride, formic acid, acetic acid, benzene, formaldehyde, acetic anhydride, sulfuric acid and ethylenediamine.

Also present are roughly 80 storage tanks, reaction vessels and mixing tanks. Most of the tanks are empty except for residual liquids and sludges. Sixteen of the tanks are outside the building; one contains about 4,000 gallons of sulfuric acid. No underground storage tanks are known to exist.

All four floors are grossly contaminated. Spills are prevalent throughout the building. They range from pH 2 to 11. Spills have crystallized up to a foot thick in places. Approximately 1,800 feet of asbestos-insulated piping exists in the building. A one-story, product shipping area, designated as Building 28-B is attached to the southside of the Building 28. A slimy mixture of spilled chemicals and rain water coats the floor of 28-B. About half of the drums in Building 28 are located in this room. Empty drums are stacked on their sides along the south wall. Full drums appear to be segregated by compatibility to some extent. About thirty drums of benzyl chloride, a corrosive which is intensely irritating to the skin and eyes, are stacked in two tiers in a corner of the room. Several of the drums are bulging and corroding. Since Building 28-B is already set up as a shipping room, it will be used as the staging and shipping area for hazardous wastes to be disposed.

Buildings 26 and 27 -- Machine Shop and Chemical Production

Buildings 26 and 27, a machine shop and small production area, respectfully, are part of the same one-story, brick structure with wooden roof. They are separated by a wall running the length of the structure. Abandoned in these buildings are approximately 40 drums, 11 storage tanks and 3 reaction vessels. Again, the tanks and reaction vessels are empty except for residual liquid and sludge. About 400 feet of piping inside the buildings appear to be insulated with asbestos. Four storage tanks outside Building 27 are empty.

Building 16 -- Boiler Room and Fuel Storage

At the rear of the site is a two-story, brick building, which houses two, oil-burning industrial boilers. A 20,000 gallon, above ground, fuel oil tank is located outside the boiler room. Approximately 6,000 gallons of fuel oil remain in the tank. This oil has not been tested for PCB contamination. About 300 feet of piping in the boiler room are insulated with asbestos.

Attached to the boiler room is a one-story tank house, designated Building 16-B. The four tanks inside the building at one time stored fish oils, vegetable oils and oleic acid. Except for some residuals, the tanks are now empty.

Barring the possibility that PCB-contaminated oils were used to fuel the boilers, the boiler room and tank house pose more of a physical hazard than a chemical hazard. The buildings are cluttered with miscellaneous equipment, trash and debris.

Building 24 -- Loading Platform

Building 24 is a covered, wooden loading platform. One side faces the railroad tracks behind the rear property line, and the other side faces the back of Building 28. The platform was apparently used to stage raw materials delivered by rail and products to be shipped by rail. The platform is empty now except for miscellaneous trash and debris, especially underneath the platform. A section of the wooden platform that extends out from under the room is rotting away. The covered section appears to have remained in good condition.

Storage Sheds

Two storage sheds, one of cinder block construction and the other of corrugated steel, exist on-site. Arkansas Company stored an assortment of flammable, potentially explosive or otherwise dangerous chemicals in the cinder block shed.

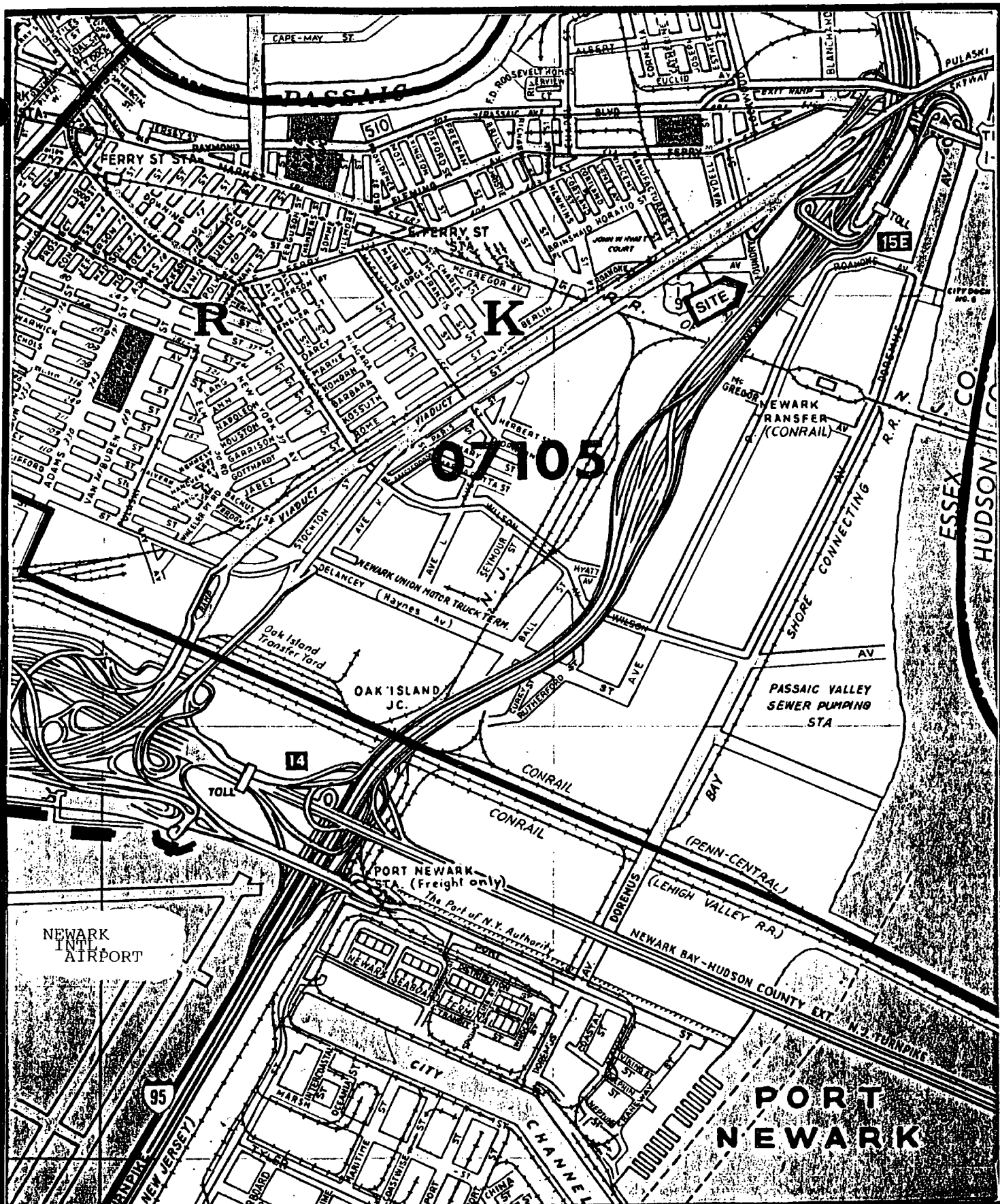
A partial inventory of these materials includes: benzene, naphtha, phosphorus anhydride, carbon tetrachloride, hexane, acetone, and 1,4-dioxane (a peroxide forming compound). Most of these materials are in five-gallon cans. One full size cylinder and two lecture bottles of compressed gas are also present. The contents of these cylinders are unknown.

The corrugated steel shed is tightly packed with about 80, 30-gallon fiber drums of what appears to be an Arkansas product. The drums are stored in two tiers. Limited space in the shed has prevented identification of the contents. It is expected that all of the material is non-hazardous.

APPENDIX B

MAPS

ARKANSAS COMPANY



WESTON
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

SPILL PREVENTION &
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Associates, Inc., Resource Applications, Inc., Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.

EPA PM

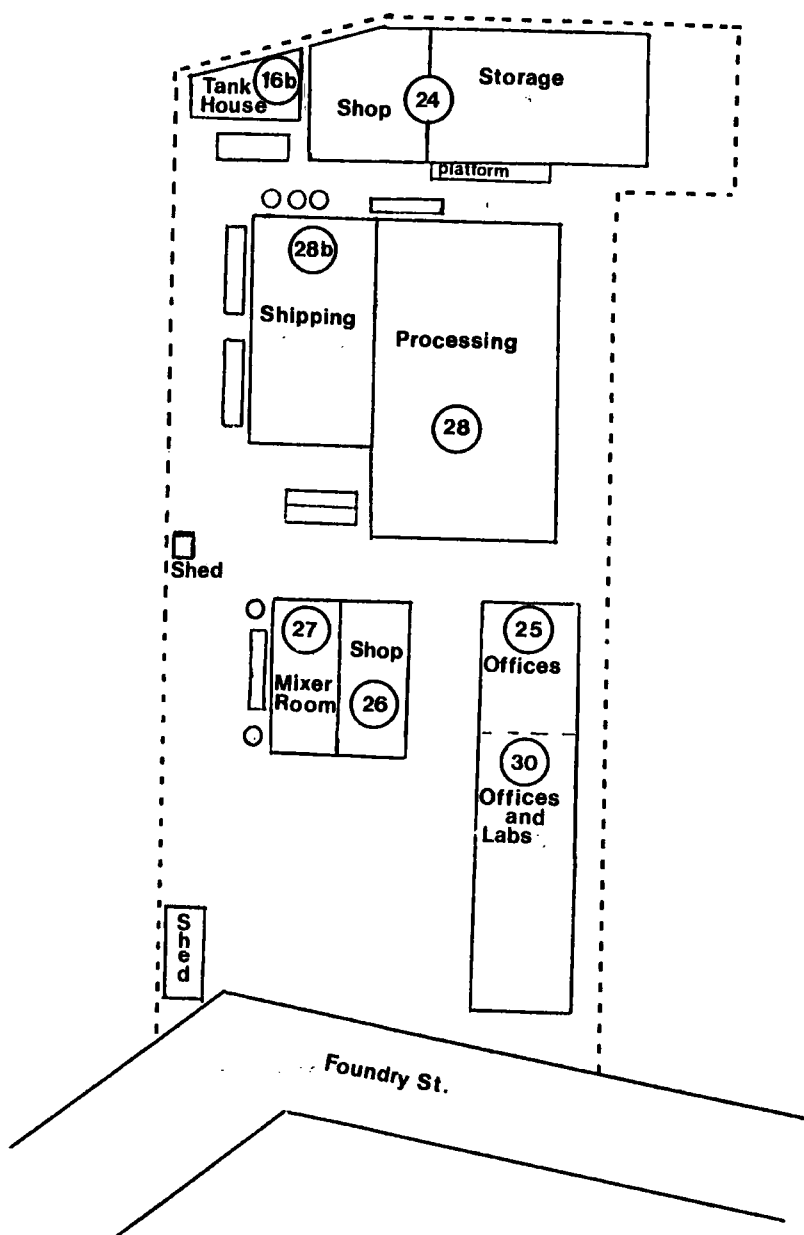
PANE

TAT PM

GRAHAM

FIGURE 1:
Location Map

Arkansas Chemical
Newark, N.J.



(NOT TO SCALE)

Tanks = O



SPILL PREVENTION &
EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In association with
ICF, Inc., Jacobs Engineering, Inc., & Tetra Tech, Inc.

EPA PM

PANE

TAT PM

GRAHAM

Figure 2

SITE MAP

Arkansas Chemical
Newark, NJ

APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS
ARKANSAS COMPANY



Building 28 First Floor

Contaminated Floor Indicating Animal Presence



Outside Building 16 Ground Level

Possible Result of Contamination



Building 30 Second Floor

Vandalized Condition of Laboratory Stock



Building 28 Third Floor

Crystalline Contamination Prevalent Throughout Building



Building 28 Third Floor

Grossly Contaminated Floors Present Throughout Building



Building 28B Ground Level

Stockpiling of Full and Empty Drums Under Leaky Roof